16 NCAC 06G .0518 is proposed for adoption as follows:

**16 NCAC 06G .0518 ALTERNATIVE CHARTER SCHOOL – ELIGIBILITY**

(a) Definitions

(1) “Student at risk” means a person eligible to enroll in a North Carolina public school who because of a wide range of individual, personal, financial, familial, social, behavioral or academic circumstances may experience failure at school or other unwanted academic or personal outcomes unless interventions occur to reduce the risk factors. Circumstances which often place students at risk may include, but are not limited to: not meeting state or local proficiency standards; grade retention; unidentified or inadequately addressed learning needs; alienation from school life; experiencing unchallenging curricula or instruction; tardiness or poor school attendance; negative peer influence; unmanageable behavior; substance abuse and other health risk behaviors, abuse and neglect; inadequate support from family or schools; and limited English proficiency.

(2) “Dropout” means any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of studies without transferring to another elementary or secondary school.

(b) In order to qualify for designation as an “alternative school” for purposes of accountability under Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, the charter school must include grades 9-12.

(1) At least 75% of the school’s population in grades 9-12 must be “Students at risk” of academic failure and must also meet one or more of the following indicators:

(2) The students must either be recently released from a juvenile justice facility, or otherwise be subject to and participating in the juvenile justice court process;

(4) The students must be currently served by a treatment facility licensed pursuant to Chapter 122C of the General Statutes, or have recently been discharged from such a facility;

(5) The students must be currently under long-term suspension from a public or private school; or

(6) The students must be high-school dropouts as defined above; or be imminently at risk of dropping out as demonstrated by adequate documentation in the charter school’s application for designation under this policy.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-12(24), 115C-218(a)(2);
Interim Rule status conferred Eff. June 27, 2018, pursuant to S.L. 2018-114, sec. 27.(b);